

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJ.: MEDIA REACTION NEUTRON BOMB

1. TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL, SEPT. 6, 1977, CARRIED LEAD
EDITORIAL ON NEUTRON BOMB. IN GENERAL, EDITORIAL ATTACKED
WHAT IT CALLED "RATIONALIZATION" THAT "THIS NEW STRIDE
TOWARD NUCLEAR DOOMSDAY IS BEING MADE TO 'IMPROVE THE
CREDIBILITY OF THE DETERRENT' AND THUS,IT IS ARGUED,
ENSURE THAT ALL THIS CAPACITY TO KILL WILL NEVER BE USED."

2. IN DEVELOPING ARGUMENT FURTHER EDITORIAL STATES THAT
AS LONG AS U.S. WAS ONLY NUCLEAR SUPERPOWER, NATO COULD
RELY ON DOCTRINE OF MASSIVE RETALIATION. FROM THIS
DOCTRINE, PAPER SAYS,"NATO FELL BACK TO THAT OF FLEXIBLE
RESPONSE."

3. IN 1970S, HOWEVER, PAPER GOES ON "NATO STRATEGISTS
HAVE COME TO BELIEVE THAT THE THOUSANDS OF TACTICAL
WARHEADS IN EUROPE ARE NO LONGER A CREDIBLE DETERRENT.
THEY ARGUE THAT BEFORE THE WEST MADE UP ITS MIND TO
'GO NUCLEAR' THE RUSSIANS WOULD ALREADY BE AT THE RHINE.
THIS MEANS THAT IF THESE BIG TACTICAL WEAPONS WERE TO BE
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FIRE TO STOP THE RUSSIAN ADVANCE THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE
FIRED AT TARGETS IN WEST GERMANY. AND SINCE WEST GERMANY
IS, NEXT TO THE UNITED STATES, NATO'S STRONGEST MEMBER,
THE TACTICAL DETERRENT CAME TO DEPEND ON THE WEST'S
ABILITY TO PERSUADE THE RUSSIANS THAT THE GERMANS ARE
READY TO ENGAGE IN SELF-IMMOLATION."

4. AS A RESULT OF THIS, GLOBE AND MAIL SAYS "CALL WENT UP FOR 'MINI-NUKES', LITTLE NUCLEAR WARHEADS SMALL ENOUGH TO BE TACTICALLY USEFUL IN DEFENDING A NATO COUNTRY AGAINST AN INVADING ARMY, BUT POTENT ENOUGH TO OFFSET THE CONVENTIONAL ADVANTAGE OF THE WARSAW PACT."

5. PAPER THEN QUOTES AMERICAN NUCLEAR PHYSICIST, BERNARD FELD, POINTING OUT THAT IF "RUSSIANS DON'T MATCH (NEUTRON BOMB) WITH A NEUTRON BOMB OF THEIR OWN... THEY CAN BE EXPECTED TO RESPOND TO IT WITH THEIR MORE ORTHODOX NUCLEAR WARHEADS. AND ONCE THAT HAS HAPPENED THE WORLD IS INTO A NUCLEAR WAR FROM WHICH NEITHER SIDE COULD BE EXPECTED TO BACK OFF."

6. PAPER THEN ATTACKS "THEORIES AND WAR GAMES" WORKED OUT WITH "ENORMOUS INTELLECTUAL EFFORT BY STRATEGIC ANALYSTS," QUOTING FROM REPORT BY STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

7. PAPER CONCLUDES "SO THE BALANCE OF TERROR IS NO MORE. THE BALANCE HAS BEEN THROWN AWAY. THE TERROR REMAINS." DUEMLING

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